COURT OF CHANCERY (IRELAND).

RETURN to an ORDER of the Honourable The House of Commons, dated 3 December 1847;—*for*,

A RETURN "of the Number of UNTAXED BILLS of COSTS handed over by the Masters in Chancery to the Taxing Master appointed under the Act 8 & 9 Vict. c. 115, in *Ireland*, since the 3d day of July 1846:"

A RETURN "of the Number of BILLS of COSTS (omitting Costs of passing Receivers' Accounts) lodged in the Office of such Taxing Master, since the 3d day of July 1846, and the Number now remaining therein under Taxation or Untaxed:"

A RETURN "of the Average Length of Time intervening between the Issuing of a Summons to tax a BILL of COSTS in said Office and the Commencement of its Taxation, so far as such Average can be conveniently ascertained, and the Cause of the Delay, if any, in commencing such Taxation:"

A RETURN "of the Amount of CHANCERY FUND DUTY paid on the Costs which have been Certified."

Ordered, by The House of Commons, *to be Printed*, 10 *February* 1848.

NUMBER of UNTAXED BILLS of COSTS handed over by the Masters in Chancery to the Taxing Master appointed under the Act of 8 & 9 Vict. c. 115, in *Ireland*, since the 3d day of July 1846.

THERE have been no Bills of Costs handed over by the Masters in Chancery to the Taxing Master since the 3d day of July 1846. For on the 1st day of November 1845 all the Bills of Costs in the offices of the Masters in Chancery having been handed over to the Taxing Master, pursuant to the provisions of the Act of 8 & 9 Vict. c. 115, since then no Bills of Costs could be lodged or received for taxation in any other office but that of the Taxing Master.

This part of the Return has probably been called for through mistake.

NUMBER of BILLS of COSTS (omitting Costs of passing Receivers' Accounts) lodged in the Office of said Taxing Master since the 3d day of July 1846, and the Number now remaining therein under Taxation or Untaxed.

THE number of Bills of Costs (omitting the costs of passing receivers' accounts) lodged in the office of the Taxing Master from the 3d day of July 1846 to the 24th day of January 1848, is 2,997, of which there now remains in the office, under taxation or untaxed, 927, which added to 958 of the Bills lodged in the office prior to the 3d July 1846, yet untaxed, makes the gross number of Bills now remaining in the office, under taxation or untaxed, 1,885 Bills, containing 1,017,375 items, amounting to the sum of 256,544 *l.*, still undisposed of. But of the 958 Bills lodged prior to 3d July 1846, it is more than probable that a great many may never be taxed.

AVERAGE Length of Time intervening between the issuing of a Summons to Tax a BILL of Costs in said Office and the Commencement of its Taxation, so far as such Average can be conveniently ascertained, and the Cause of the Delay, if any, in commencing such Taxation.

IT is not possible to state the average length of time intervening between the issuing a summons to tax a Bill of Costs in said office and the commencement of such taxation, as no record is kept of the time when any summons issues. But it is calculated that where a Bill of Costs does not contain more than 300 items (say 200*l.* in amount) it is generally taxed within 10 days from the issuing of the summons; but where it exceeds that length the time varies from three to four months, according to the length of the Bill, in some cases from five to six months, and in other (more heavy) cases extends to a still longer period.

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The cause of the delay, whether in commencing such taxation or in the progress of it, arises from the quantity of business in the office, and the utter impossibility of one Taxing Master being able to perform the duties required of him, although he and his first assistant (Mr. Tandy) have worked at home during the last two years, from three to four hours, and not unfrequently from five to six hours a day, in addition to the office hours, a degree of labour which cannot be continued without serious injury to health.

AMOUNT of CHANCERY FUND DUTY paid on the Costs which have been Certified.

THE amount of Chancery Fund duty paid on certified costs (either for summonses or certificates), from the 1st November 1846 to 1st November 1847, was 4,212*l.* 5*s.* 6*d.*; but the amount of Chancery Fund duty paid upon costs compromised, after being lodged and partly taxed, is not included in that sum.

(signed) *John O'Dwyer,*
Taxing Master, Court of Chancery, in Ireland.

Office, 20, Upper Ormond Quay, 31 January 1848.

COURT OF CHANCERY (IRELAND).

A RETURN of the Number of UNTAXED BILLS of COSTS handed over by the Masters in Chancery to the Taxing Master appointed under the Act 8 & 9 Vict. c. 115, in *Ireland*, since the 3d day of July 1846; &c.

(*Mr. George Hamilton.*)

Ordered, by The House of Commons, *to be Printed,*
10 *February* 1848.

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